

Secured \$351,000 in Federal Funds for Trail, Which Will Provide Bicyclists & Pedestrians with Alternative to Route 208; Serve as Recreational Resource

Wallkill, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined other elected and community officials in dedicating the recently improved and paved rail trail that runs 3.25 miles between the hamlet of Wallkill in the Town of Shawangunk to the Village of Walden in the Town of Montgomery. Hinchey last year secured used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$351,000 in federal funds to help surface and complete the trail.

"The improvement and paving of more than three miles of Rail Trail helps to reestablish a historic link between these two communities along this former railroad corridor and increases recreational and transportation opportunities for residents and visitors," Hinchey said. "As we've seen in other areas of the Hudson Valley, rail trails improve the quality of life in our area, expand local tourism and support economic development to our towns and villages. These trails also increase the value of properties adjoining and nearby the trails, giving families and individuals a place to bike and walk in their own backyards."

The federal funds Hinchey secured enabled the municipalities to finish upgrades to the more than 3 mile stretch of unpaved rail trail between the Village of Walden and the hamlet of Wallkill in the Town of Shawangunk. Those upgrades to the trail included: trail paving, installation of signage at road crossings, construction of safety fencing in "drop off" areas, access improvements for disabled individuals, and upgrades to the trail shoulders.

"The rail trail that we are dedicating this morning has been improved and upgraded so that it is safer and more enjoyable for the public to use and so that it is also accessible to persons with disabilities," Hinchey said. "I'm confident that renovated trail will quickly become a favorite destination for walkers, bicyclists, runners, and rollerbladers, who will then also support local businesses in the Village of Walden and the hamlet of Wallkill. The trail also offers residents of the area a safe alternative to using a car for local trips."

The originally projected costs of this trail project were significantly reduced by the diligent efforts of the highway and public works departments of the municipalities, as well as the generous contributions of time and services by Watchtower Farms, Taylor Recycling and other local businesses.

Hinchey Helps Dedicate Newly Paved Rail Trail between Walden & Wallkill

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